from various Countires like U.S.A., Australia, U.K. Italy, Sweden, Holland, Thailand, China and Japan.

As a result of the research efforts nearly 2000 varieties of various crops have been notified on the basis of superiority of yield and diseaseresistance over existing varieties. The import of seed is intended to ensure access to the best seeds/planting material available any where in the World.

The instances any new or exotic pests coming alongwith imported seeds have not come to notice.

Negative Protection to Farmers during Reference Period of GATT

3556. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the amount of negative protection during the reference period of GATT to the farmers and the same for the last three years;

(b) which sectors have been benefited by this capital which was diverted from agriculture to other sector during the said period; and

(c) what loss was caused to agriculture as a result of this diversion annually during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The concept of Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS) used in the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture is a negotiated concept designed to measure the trade distorting domestic support given to agriculture by member countries of GATT. It does not take into account a large variety of support measures for the agricultural sector. The AMS is to be calculated for the base period (1986—88) only, not for subsequent years. In Indis' case, the AMS was minus Rs. 19,860 crores. The negative figure arises from the fact that in most agricultural commodities our support prices during the base period were lower than the reference international prices. It is not appropriate to equate the concepts of AMS and protection and a negative figure of AMS is not the same thing as negative protection.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

Exported Plastic Goods Lying Uncleared in Dubai Port

3557. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received any communication from the Minister of Finance to the effect that large quantities of plastic goods exported from India as finished products are lying uncleared in Dubai Port and also suggesting that while the exact amount involved is not known it runs into hundreds of crores of rupees;

(b) whether it is a fact that being threatened by the local authorities to clear these goods the unscrupulous consignees have approached a Dubai based french garbage disposal firm for destruction of these goods since they are substandard; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and the steps proposed to be taken against the guilty firms?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. Enquiries made from our Mission at Dubai have also not confirmed that large quantities of plastic goods exported from India as finished products are lying uncleared at Dubai Port.